

Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing for Proposed 33 no. sand ghats located in Gondia district namely Kinhi, Mahalgaon – 1, Mahalgaon -2, Murdala(Saitola), Murdala(Parvatighat), Dangurli, Deori, Tedhava, Banathar, Satona (Gaoghat), Birsola, Jirutola, Pujaritola (Kasa), at Gondia Taluka, Arjuni, Sawara, Chandori Buj, Biroli, Mandvi, Kawlewada, Ghatkuroda – 1, Ghatkuroda – 2, Bondrani, at Tiroda Taluka, Ghattemani (Dogaghat), Manekasa, at Taluka Amgaon, Sawangi-1, Sawangi – 2, Palasgaon (Raka), Soundad, Pipri, Kodamedi, Ghatbori Teli, at.Tq Sadak/Arjuni, Singhmarhan, Wadgaon (Bandhya) at taluka Arjuni/Morgaon,for year 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 DTD. 23/01/2024. TIME 1.00 P.M, at Collector Office, Gondia.

As per Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India Notification dated 14.09.2006 amended dated 1.12.2009, Environmental Public hearing was conducted for proposed 33 no. sand ghats Kinhi, Mahalgaon – 1, Mahalgaon -2, Murdala(Saitola), Murdala(Parvatighat), Dangurli, Deori, Tedhava, Banathar, Satona (Gaoghat), Birsola, Jirutola, Pujaritola (Kasa), at Gondia Taluka, Arjuni, Sawara, Chandori Buj, Biroli, Mandvi, Kawlewada, Ghatkuroda – 1, Ghatkuroda – 2, Bondrani, at Tiroda Taluka, Ghattemani (Dogaghat), Manekasa, at Taluka Amgaon, Sawangi-1, Sawangi – 2, Palasgaon (Raka), Soundad, Pipri, Kodamedi, Ghatbori Teli, at.Tq Sadak/Arjuni, Singhmarhan, Wadgaon (Bandhya) at taluka Arjuni/Morgaon,located in Gondia district, for the years 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chinmay Gotmare (IAS), District Collector & District Magistrate, Gondia. Ms. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Nagpur was member of public hearing panel, and Shri. Kishor Pusadkar, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Bhandara acted as a convener. Public Hearing conducted on 23.01.2024 at 1.00 P.M. with the permission of the Chairman of Public haring, at Zilha Niyojan Bhavan, Collector Office, Gondia. Shri Sachine Wadhwe, District Mining Officer, Gondia also attended said public hearing. Attendance of People present during Public Hearing is attached as **(Annexure-I.)**

BACKGROUND :

The proposed sand mining projects attract provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006. Collector Office, Gondia has requested Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, to conduct a public hearing for their proposed 33 no. sand ghats in Gondia district for the years 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, vide letter dated 26.10.2023. Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter no.MPCB/JD(WPC)/Env-PH/B-231120-FTS-0247 dtd 20.11.2023 directed to initiate public hearing process.

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE:

With permission of the Chairman of Public Hearing, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara & convenor has started Public Hearing procedure by welcoming Chairman, Member of the public hearing panel, officers & public present during hearing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara, informed that Public Hearing is conducted under provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and amended thereof for recording views / objects / suggestions of participants regarding proposed project, and same will be communicated to the Competent Committee. It was also clarified that this panel has not the right to take any decision for accordance or any kind of approval to the project and appealed participants to express their views and suggestion orally or in writing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara further said that notices for public hearing were published in two local widely circulated newspapers i.e. the 'The Hitavada' (English) and 'Lokmat' (Marathi) on 22.12.2023 for thirty days period. Copies of the same are enclosed as **(Annexure-II.)**

Copies of Executive summary both in English and Marathi, with Environment Management Plan and other information/documents submitted by Project proponent were made available to the public by making these documents available in various Govt. offices as well as local Gram Panchayat as per MoEF GOI Notification. Suggestions, comments, and objections of the public were called in writing during the notice period of publication of notice. The public hearing panel was constituted vide MPC Board Office Order No. E-100/2024 vide letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)/PH/B-231227-FTS-0123 dtd. 27/12/2023. Copy enclosed as **(Annexure-III)**. No objections/suggestions in writing received before & during public hearing.

Executive summary in English and Marathi along with soft copy were kept in the following offices for information and study of concerns and asked to give extensive publicity.

- 1) Collector Office, Gondia.
- 2) Zilla Parishad Office, Gondia.
- 3) District Industries Centre, Gondia.
- 4) Sub-Divisional Officer, Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 5) Sub-Divisional Officer, Tiroda, Dist. Gondia
- 6) Sub-Divisional Officer, Deori, Dist. Gondia
- 7) Sub-Divisional Officer, Arjuni Morgaon, Dist. Gondia
- 8) Tehsil Office Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 9) Tehsil Office Tiroda, Dist. Gondia
- 10) Tehsil Office Amgaon, Dist. Gondia

- 11) Tehsil Office Sadak/Arjuni, Dist. Gondia
- 12) Tehsil Office Arjuni/Morgaon, Dist. Gondia
- 13) Regional Office, M.P.C.Board, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 14) Department of Environment & Climate Change, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Kadam Kama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32
- 15) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Headquarters, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Mala, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opposite Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-400022.
- 16) Regional Office (West Central Region), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Block, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
- 17) Gram Panchayat Office, Kinhi, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 18) Gram Panchayat Office, Mahalgaon, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 19) Gram Panchayat Office, Murdada, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 20) Gram Panchayat Office, Dangurli, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 21) Gram Panchayat Office, Deori, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 22) Gram Panchayat Office, Tedhwa, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 23) Gram Panchayat Office, Satona, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 24) Gram Panchayat Office, Birsola, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 25) Gram Panchayat Office, Jirutola, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 26) Gram Panchayat Office, Banathar, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 27) Gram Panchayat Office, Pujaritola (Casa), Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia
- 28) Gram Panchayat Office, Arjuni, Tq. Tiroda, Dist. Gondia
- 29) Gram Panchayat Office, Chandori Buj, Tq. Tiroda, Dist. Gondia
- 30) Gram Panchayat Office, Biroli, Tq. Tiroda, Dist. Gondia
- 31) Gram Panchayat Office, Mandvi, Tq. Tiroda, Dist. Gondia
- 32) Gram Panchayat Office, Kavalewada, Tq. Tiroda, Dist. Gondia
- 33) Gram Panchayat Office, Ghatkuroda, Tq. Tiroda, Dist. Gondia
- 34) Gram Panchayat Office, Bondrani, Tq. Tiroda, Dist. Gondia
- 35) Gram Panchayat Office, Ghattemani, Tq. Amgaon, Dist. Gondia
- 36) Gram Panchayat Office, Tekri, Tq. Amgaon, Dist. Gondia
- 37) Gram Panchayat Office, Savangi, Tq. Sadak/Arjuni, Dist. Gondia
- 38) Gram Panchayat Office, Palasgaon (Raka), Tq. Sadak/Arjuni, Dist. Gondia
- 39) Gram Panchayat Office, Saundad, Tq. Sadak/Arjuni, Dist. Gondia
- 40) Gram Panchayat Office, Kodamedi, Tq. Sadak/Arjuni, Dist. Gondia
- 41) Gram Panchayat Office, Ghatbori Teli, Tq. Sadak/Arjuni, Dist. Gondia
- 42) Gram Panchayat Office, Bori, Tq. Arjuni / Morgaon, Dist. Gondia
- 43) Gram Panchayat Office, Wadegaon (Bandhya), Tq. Arjuni / Morgaon, Dist. Gondia
- 44) Gram Panchayat Office, Raka, Tq. Sadak/Arjuni, Dist. Gondia

Documents were also hosted on the Board's website www.mpcb.gov.in.

Thereafter, Sub-Regional Officer, Bhandara and Convener requested the project proponent to give their detailed presentation about proposed sand mining projects and Environmental issues related with it.

Accordingly, Shri Sachine Wadhwe, DMO briefed in short for proposals of sand ghats and their technical consultant gave detailed power point presentation of sand ghats in local language marathi comprising of sand ghats location, environmental aspects, mining methods, environmental management plans, occupational health and safety management, green belt development plans, project benefits, environmental management plan costs, etc.

Sub-Regional Officer & Convener Shri. Kishor Pusadkar has requested public present during hearing to express their views, comments, concern & suggestion for this proposed project, in writing as well as orally.

No written objections were received regarding the proposed sand ghats from any attendees during the public hearing.

During public Hearing, various questions, annotations, comments, concerns, and responses/assurances provided by the project holder about the project were discussed, as follows:

Sr No	Name	Objections/suggestion	Reply of project proponent
1	Hon'ble Collector, Gondia.	-	From presentation, it will be noted that a resolution and agreement have been obtained from the village assembly regarding sand excavation and transportation.
2	Shri Rohit Tiwari, Gondia.	The road for sand transportation from Murdada (Parvati) Ghat passes through the village, causing dust related issue.	A proposal for the maintenance of roads in Murdada (Parvati) village will be undertaken through funds from District Mineral Fund. Estimates have been made for this purpose, and expenses will be incurred on proposals prioritizing areas

			<p>affected by sand transportation.</p> <p>Environmental clearance for sand mining will be obtained for three years whereas surveys and tenders for sand ghats will be conducted annually.</p>
3	Shri Amit Shah, Gondia.	<p>In the Grampanchayats and among the residents of Virsola, Saitola, and Dangurli, there is always a situation of conflict due to sand transportation routes. What assistance can the administration provide in this regard.</p>	<p>Priority has been given to the maintenance/construction of sand transportation roads using District Mineral Fund. Work will be carried out according to regulations. Relevant department has been informed regarding preparation of estimates for road maintenance/construction, and expenses will be incurred upon receiving funds.</p>
4	Ms. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer.	<p>No information has been provided about the sand stockyards. It has been mentioned in presentation that only water will be sprinkled up to one K.M. Information regarding spraying of water more than 1.0 K.M for sand transportation may be furnish.</p>	<p>Sand stockyards has been proposed. If there is a distance of more than one kilometer between sand ghat and the stockyard, water sprinkling will be carried out on entire road. The District Mining officer mentioned that there is no government land available for sand storage in Gondia</p>

			<p>district, but there is private land.</p> <p>The ideal distance between sand ghat and stockyard is one kilometer, but if the distance is greater, water sprinkling will be carried on the entire road for dust control. Condition regarding air pollution control due to sand transportation and handling will be included in the tender notice.</p>
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No written objections have been received during the public hearing.

Hon'ble Chairman, Public Hearing Committee: - said that the objections received during public hearing will be noted in minutes. The District Mining Officer will take appropriate action on it. Matters related to the utilization of the District Mineral Fund will also be considered. public hearing concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.



(Kishor Pusadkar)

Sub-Regional Officer

M.P.C. Board, Bhandara & Convener of
Public Hearing Panel



(Hema Deshpande)

Regional Officer,

MPC Board, Nagpur & Member of Public
Hearing Panel



(Chinmay Gotmare) (IAS)

District Collector, Gondia.

& Chairperson of the Public Hearing Panel